

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (INOUE, DANIEL K.)

SUBJECT: CODEL INOUE - VISIT WRAP-UP

REF STATE 273401

SUMMARY: SENATORS INOUE AND MATHIAS TRAVELING ON BEHALF OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PURSUED AN ACTIVE PROGRAM DURING VISIT TO EGYPT JAN 18-21, WHICH INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. CODEL SPENT DAY VISITING SUEZ CANAL AREA, RECEIVING BRIEFING ON CANAL CLEARANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION AS WELL AS TOURING BAR LEV FRONT LINE OF OCTOBER WAR. BESIDES MEETINGS WITH TOP GOE OFFICIALS, CODEL WAS ENTERTAINED BY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND DEPUTIES INCLUDED IN THEIR SCHEDULE A PRIVATE MEETING WITH THREE PLO REPS IN EGYPT WHICH, WHILE KNOWN TO EGYPTIANS, WAS NOT PUBLICIZED. SENATORS INDICATED VISIT WAS FRUITFUL IN TERMS OF EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE OF EGYPT AND HER PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATORS INOUE AND MATHIAS AND MEMBERS OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF (SUB-COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE) PAID VISIT TO EGYPT JAN 18-21. EMBASSY OFFICERS BRIEFED SENATORS AND STAFF ON GENERAL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SITUATION AND AID ACTIVITIES ON JAN 19. SENATORS ASKED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT USE OFFAID ASSISTANCE AND WERE GIVEN DETAILS OF OUR PLANS TO
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DATE. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OTHER DONOR

ASSISTANCE IN EGYPT, GOE'S EXTERNAL DEBT AND RECEIVED
EXPLANATION OF EMBASSY POLICY OF MAINTAINING LOW
PROFILE.

2. AT DINNER HOSTED BY SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SAYED
MAREI SAME EVENING, MAREI WELCOMED SENATORS, PROCLAIMED
THAT TEGYPT'S POLICY IS TO RECOVER LANDS OCCUPIED IN 1967 WAR
AND THAT REGAINING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IS SEPARATE QUESTION.
MAREI ALLUDED TO EGYPTIAN UNHAPPINESS WITH QUOTE RECENT
THREATS FROM WASHINGTON - UNQUOTE. IN RETURN, SENATOR
INOUE EXPLAINED INFORMATIVE NATURE OF VISIT, SAID HEAND
SENATOR MATHIAS ON TRIP AT REQUEST OF ENTIRE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS. INOUE SAID THAT THEY REPRESENT
NEW TREND IN US SENATE WHICH LOOKS AT FOREIGN RELATIONS IN
TERMS OF US INTERESTS IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR AREA AND
THAT THEY DID NOT ACCEPT QUOTE OLD MYTHS UNQUOTE TO JUSTIFY
AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OVERSEAS. SENATORS HELD UNSCHEDULED
MEETING FOLLOWING DINNER WITH SAYED MAREI AND OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE PARLIAMENT IN WHICH THEY EXPLAINED THE PROCESS THROUGH
WHICH THE REQUEST FOR AID TO EGYPT HAD TO TRAVEL IN SENATE.
THEY REITERATED EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF INCLUSION OF 150
MILLION DOLLARS FOR EGYPT IN CONTINUING RESOLUTION. SAYED
MAREI AND COLLEAGUES EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
EXPLANATION.

3. ON JAN 20, CODEL TRAVELED TO SUEZ CANAL AFTER BRIEFING
BY FORMER SECOND ARMY COMMANDER BRIG GEN MAAMOUN ON
THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR WITH ISRAEL. SENATORS VISITED
RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT IN SUEZ CITY AND SAW DESTROYED TOWN
OF PORT TEWFIK. CODEL SEEMED IMPRESSED BY EGYPTIAN
RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN AREA AND ASKED MANY QUESTIONS
OF SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS ALIKE. MAAMOUN ACCOMPANIED
CODEL ON CANAL CROSSING AT KANTARA AND BRIEF THEM
AT FORMER ISRAELI STRONG POINT ALONG BAR LEV LINE. ACCORDING
TO SENATOR INOUE TOUR AND BRIEFING PROVIDED CODEL WITH BETTER
INSIGHT INTO EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD RESULTS OF OCTOBER WAR.
BRIEFING BY CTF 65 CAPTAIN OLSON COMPLETED VISIT TO CANAL.
CODEL MEMBERS APPEARED SATISFIED WITH ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION THEY RECEIVED ON DETAILS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN
CANAL CLEARANCE OPERATION.
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4. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION FOR THEM EVENING JAN 20
SENATORS MET FOR THREE HOURS WITH THREE
MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE. MEETING ARRANGED THROUGH CLOVIS MAQSoud,
FORMER LAW SCHOOL CLASSMATE OF SENATOR INOUE AND A LEADING
PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDIST. APART FROM DESCRIBING MEETING
AS QUOTE VERY INTERESTING UNQUOTE, CODEL DID NOT DEBRIEF

EMBASSY ON WHAT WAS DISCUSSED. MAQSUD HAD BEEN INVITED TO SPEAKER'S DINNER AND FACT OF MEETING BETWEEN PLO AND SENATORS WAS KNOWN TO EGYPTIAN GUESTS, WHO INCLUDED MEMBERS OF PRESS, ALTHOUGH NO PUBLICITY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN TO MEETING.

5. AMBASSADOR, WHO RETURNED EVENING JAN 20 HAD OPPORTUNITY BRIEF CODEL ON FLIGHT TO ASWAN FOLLOWING DAY TO MEET PRESIDENT SADAT, PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY. CAIRO 837 REPORTS MEETING WITH SADAT. OTHER MEETINGS DURING TRIP WILL BE REPORTED BY NEA ESCORT OFFICER MONTVILLE UPON HIS RETURN. SENATOR MATHIAS ALSO TOURED PHILAE TEMPLE PROJECT AND HIGH DAM PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR AMMAN.

6. COMMENT: PURPOSE OF VISIT, AS DESCRIBED BY SENATORS, WAS TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND PICTURE OF PLANS FOR US ASSISTANCE AND TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH EGYPT. SNEATORS SAID THEY HAD GAINED UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPTIAN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT AND PLANS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND, FROM THIS STANDPOINT, THEY BELIEVED VISIT WAS HIGHLY USEFUL. FROM US VIEWPOINT, SENATORS MADE HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON ALL WHO MET THEM. THEIR STATEMENTS ON APPRAISAL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN TERMS OF US NATIONAL INTERESTS WERE WELL RECEIVED BY EGYPTIANS. CODEL ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT IN FY 75 AND FY 76. PICTURES AND ARTICLES COVERING CODEL VISIT WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN CAIRO PRESS AND ARE BEING POUCHED TO SENATORS.
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